

MASB's Legislative Priorities 2015-16 Legislative Session

- ✓ **Support mandatory training for all school board members, including public school academies.**
 - Research shows that board members who have the fundamental skills and knowledge needed to make effective decisions at the board table are more able to successfully support student achievement and financial stability in their districts.
- ✓ **Support a high-quality teacher and administrator evaluation law.**
 - In 2014, steps were taken to create a quality teacher and administrator evaluation law. Unfortunately, it was not finished before the end of session. Work on this should continue with a system created that is efficient, effective and fair, as well as able to be tailored to an individual district's needs.
- ✓ **Expand the use of sinking funds.**
 - Sinking funds can be a less costly alternative to bonding when purchasing buses, technology or upgrading school security.
- ✓ **Support further cost containment in retirement and health care for districts.**
 - With 85-90 percent of a school district's costs attributable to personnel, and with no way to raise money locally, we must find ways to operate in the most cost-effective way while maintaining an environment that is attractive for recent college graduates.
- ✓ **Create state financial support for facilities and infrastructure, including technology.**
 - Michigan has a multi-billion-dollar school construction need with a state school bond system that is near the bottom in the country in actual monetary assistance to school districts. Coupled with property values that vary so much across the state, we have an infrastructure system that will not meet the needs of Michigan's future students. Technology demands for districts are also increasing at a rate that can't be supported simply through expending funds from the per-pupil grant. The state needs to look at financial support for facilities and technology.
- ✓ **Support legislation to end unfunded mandates and determine actual costs of legislation.**
 - Over the years, local governments, including school districts, have been given more and more to do or abide by without funding to help make it happen. Legislation has been proposed in past sessions to support a fiscal note with every piece of legislation to determine its actual cost to local governments and schools. The Legislature should revisit these bills and take action to adopt standards that will create an environment of trust between local units of government and the State Legislature.



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